

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2058

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1134

CAPE TWON FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH BC

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MUZOREWA VISIT TO BOTSWANA

REF: GABORONE 1131; (B) GABORONE 1133

1. BISHOP MUZOREWA CAME TO GABORONE FOR 5 1/2 HOURS APRIL 21 TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT SERETSE KHAMA. HIS VISIT WAS PUNCTUATED BY DEMONSTRATIONS (REF.B), LED BY ZIMBABWE STUDENTS, REQUIRING CHANGE IN SCHEDULE AND PROBABLY ACCOUNTING FOR MUZOREWA'S DECISION TO CUT SHORT HIS VISIT AND RETURN TO SALISBURY SAME EVENING. MINEXTAFF MOGWE HAS PROMISED US A COPY OF NOTES OF MEETING EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE AND PRESIDENTIAL PRIVATE SECRETARY LEGWAILA SUMMARIZED THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS AS A STAND-OFF, WITH GOB TELLING MUZOREWA HE HAD TO ATTEND THE ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE AND
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MUZOREWA DEFENDING SALISBURY AGREEMENT AND ALLEGING POPULAR SUPPORT THAT WILL MAKE ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE UNNECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

2. BISHOP MUZOREWA ARRIVED IN GABORONE ABOUT NOON APRIL 21 BY CHARTERED AIRCRAFT ACCOMPANIED BY GEORGE NYANDORO AND ONE OTHER AIDE. AT THE AIRFIELD TO GREET HIM, ALONG WITH MINEXTAFF DEPQTY

PERMSEC MOGAMI WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO MEET HIM AND PHIL STEENKAMP WHO HAPPENED TO BE THERE, WERE A GROUP OF ZIMBABWE STUDENTS ESTIMATED VARIOUSLY AT BETWEEN 200 AND 300, THEIR POCKETS FILLED WITH EGGS AND TOMMTOES. GOB RECEPTION PLANS WERE APPROPRIATELY ALTERED AND MUZOREWA SLIPPED THE CROWD BY BEING DRIVEN ACROSS RUNWAY AND OUT A BACK ROUTE TO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE. THE FRUSTRATED STUDENTS GREW IN RANKS (BBC SAID 800) AS THEY MARCHED IN ORDERLY FASHION THROUGH TOWN TO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE WHERE, HELD AT BAY, THEY EVENTUALLY UNLEASHED THEIR EGGS, ETC. AGAINST POLICE AND DEFENSE FORCE (BDF) UNITS GUARDING THE TALK SITE. THE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD AN EFFECT ON MUZOREWA'S PLANS; HE TOLD GOB SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL THAT HE HAD OBLIGATIONS IN SALISBURY THAT WOULD REQUIRE HIM TO RETURN THAT SAME EVENING INSTEAD OF STAYING OVERNIGHT AT A DOWNTOWN HOTEL (FOR WHICH RESERVATIONS HAD BEEN MADE). LUNCHEON ARRANGEMENTS WERE SIMILARLY REVISED; INSTEAD OF THE DOWNTOWN HOTEL, MINEXTAFF MOGWE LED A SMALL GOB GROUP THAT TOOK MUZOREWA AND PARTY 40 MILES TO LOBATSE FOR LUNCH.

3. AT SOCIAL OCCASION EVENING APRIL 21, MINISTER MOGWE AND LEGWAILA BRIEFLY REFLECTED ON THE RESULTS OF THE BISHOP'S VISIT. THEY REGRETTED THAT THE BISHOP HAD CUT SHORT THE TALKS WHICH LASTED ONLY A LITTLE MORE THAN TWO HOURS. "WE NEEDED AT LEAST FOUR HOURS", WAS MOGWE'S COMMENT. MOGWE ADDED THAT HE WOULD GIVE UK HICOM AND ME A FULL REPORT MONDAY; THIS WOULD GIVE THE GOB TIME TO "ANALYZE THE RESULTS AND DRAW CONCLUSIONS". LEGWAILA SAID UK AND WE WOULD

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RECEIVE A COPY OF HIS NOTES OF THE MEETING.

4. MEANWHILE, LEGWAILA GAVE HIS IMPRESSION IN FOLLOWING TERMS: PRESIDENT KHAMA TOLD MUZOREWA IN UNMISTAKABLE TERMS THAT HE HAD TO ATTEND THE ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE; IF HE DID NOT SHOW UP, HE WOULD FOREVER BE ASSOCIATED TOGETHER WITH SMITH AS "THE ENEMY". MUZOREWA REPORTEDLY SHOWED SURPRISE AT AGGRESSIVE GOB STANCE WHICH APPARENTLY PUT HIM ON THE DEFENSIVE, BUT HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT. HE TRIED TO TURN THE TALK TO THE SUBSTANCE AND PROSPECTS OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT BUT (ACCORDING TO LEGWAILA) WAS REPEATEDLY BROUGHT BACK TO THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE FOR HIM OF ATTENDING THE ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS PRELIMINARY REPORT BASED ON LEGWAILA'S IMPRESSIONS. WE BELIEVE GOB WILL MAKE GOOD ITS PROMISE OF FULL REACTION EARLY NEXT WEEK.

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Message Attributes

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